

Appl. No. 09/518,699
Amendment Dated January 6, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 6, 2003

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (previously presented) A method of promoting intellectual property, the method comprising:

providing a host station having at least one database, the at least one database including:

a plurality of intellectual property items; and
a description of each intellectual property item;

accessing said database and selecting one of said intellectual property items by a consumer station;

accessing the description associated with the selected intellectual property item from the consumer station;

sending survey information from the consumer station to the host station, the survey information of the selected intellectual property item based at least in part on the description of the selected intellectual property item; and

accessing the survey information from an industry station to thereby determine the interest in the selected intellectual property item based on the survey information.

2. (previously presented) A method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 1, and further comprising summing the survey information from different stations for the selected intellectual property item.

3. (previously presented) A method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 2, wherein the survey information includes information reflective of a consumer's desire to purchase the selected intellectual property item.

4. (previously presented) A method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 1, wherein the survey information includes information reflective of a consumer's desire to purchase the selected intellectual property item.

5. (previously presented) A method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 4, and further comprising providing an incentive to a consumer at the consumer station for sending the survey information.

6. (original) A method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 5, wherein the incentive is chosen from the group consisting of currency, coupons, discounts, products, and services.

7. (original) A method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 1, and further comprising searching a desired grouping of intellectual property items having at least one common feature prior to selecting the at least one intellectual property item.

8. (previously presented) A method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 7, wherein the at least one common feature is one of a Standard Industrial Classification code and a North American Industry Classification System code.

9. (original) A method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 1, and further comprising:

 sending from a customer station to a host station intellectual property data representative of an intellectual property item at least partially held by a customer at the customer station, the intellectual property data being included in the at least one database and comprising at least the description of the customer's intellectual property item; and

 displaying at least the description of the customer's intellectual property item at the host station for view by the

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consumer and industry stations upon selection of the customer's intellectual property item.

10. (original) A method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 9, wherein the host station includes an Internet site, and further wherein each of the consumer, industry, and customer stations includes a processor-based work station remote from the Internet site and connectable thereto for accessing the at least one database.

11. (previously presented) A method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 10, wherein the survey information is accessible at the Internet site by only the customer station and the industry station, respectively.

12. (original) A method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 11, wherein the at least one database further comprises at least one confidential information item for the selected intellectual property item.

13. (previously presented) A method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 12, wherein the at least one confidential information item is viewable only by the customer station at least partially holding the intellectual property item and by the industry station.

14. (original) A method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 13, and further comprising selectively releasing, from the customer station, the at least one confidential information item for view by the consumer station.

15. (original) A method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 1, wherein the host station includes an Internet site, and further wherein each of the consumer and industry stations includes a processor-based work station remote from the Internet site and connectable thereto for accessing the at least one database.

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16. (original) A method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 1, wherein the description of each intellectual property item includes at least one general information item viewable by at least the consumer station and at least one confidential information item viewable by the industry station.

17. (original) A method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 16, and further comprising selectively releasing the at least one confidential information item at the host station for view by the consumer station.

18. (previously presented) A method of promoting intellectual property online, the method comprising:

providing a host station having an Internet site and at least one database accessible at the Internet site, the at least one database including:

a plurality of intellectual property items; and

a description of each intellectual property item, the description having at least one general description item and at least one confidential description item;

selecting one of said intellectual property items by a consumer station connected to the host station;

viewing the at least one general description item associated with the selected intellectual property item from the consumer station;

selecting said one intellectual property item by an industry station connected to the host station; and

viewing the at least one confidential description item from the industry station;

whereby said at least one confidential description item is unavailable for view by the consumer station.

19. (previously presented) A method for promoting intellectual property according to claim 18, and further comprising:

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sending feedback data on the selected intellectual property item from the consumer station to the host station, the feedback data including consumer survey information of the intellectual property item based at least in part on the description of the associated intellectual property item; and

accessing the feedback data from the industry station to thereby determine the degree of consumer interest in the selected intellectual property item based on the consumer survey information.

20. (previously presented) A method for promoting intellectual property according to claim 19, wherein the consumer survey information includes information reflective of a consumer's desire to purchase the selected intellectual property item.

21. (original) A method for promoting intellectual property according to claim 20, and further comprising providing an incentive to a consumer at the consumer station for sending the feedback data.

22. (original) A method for promoting intellectual property according to claim 18, and further comprising searching, by said industry station, a desired grouping of intellectual property items having at least one common feature prior to selecting by said industry station the at least one intellectual property item.

23. (previously presented) A method for promoting intellectual property according to claim 22, wherein the at least one common feature is one of a Standard Industrial Classification code and a North American Industry Classification System code.

24. (previously presented) A method for promoting intellectual property according to claim 18, and further comprising selectively releasing the at least one confidential

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description item at the host station for view by the consumer station.

25. (previously presented) A processor-based system for promotion of intellectual property, the system comprising:

a host station having at least one database, the at least one database including:

a plurality of intellectual property items; and
a description of each intellectual property item;

means for selecting one of said intellectual property items by a consumer station and an industry station, respectively;

means for accessing the description associated with the selected intellectual property item from said consumer station and said industry station;

means for sending feedback data from the consumer station to the host station, the feedback data including consumer survey information of the selected intellectual property item based at least in part on the description of the selected intellectual property item; and

means for accessing the feedback data from an industry station to thereby determine the degree of consumer interest in the selected intellectual property item based on the consumer survey information.

26. (previously presented) A processor-based system for promoting intellectual property according to claim 25, and further comprising means for summing the consumer survey information from different consumer stations for the selected intellectual property item.

27. (previously presented) A processor-based system for promoting intellectual property according to claim 26, wherein the consumer survey information includes information

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reflective of a consumer's desire to purchase the selected intellectual property item.

28. (previously presented) A processor-based system for promoting intellectual property according to claim 25, wherein the consumer survey information includes information reflective of a consumer's desire to purchase the selected intellectual property item.

29. (original) A processor-based system for promoting intellectual property according to claim 28, and further comprising means for providing an incentive to a consumer at the consumer station for sending the feedback data.

30. (original) A processor-based system for promoting intellectual property according to claim 29, wherein the incentive is chosen from the group consisting of currency, coupons, discounts, products, and services.

31. (original) A processor-based system for promoting intellectual property according to claim 25, and further comprising means for searching a desired grouping of intellectual property items having at least one common feature prior to selecting the at least one intellectual property item.

32. (previously presented) A processor-based system for promoting intellectual property according to claim 31, wherein the at least one common feature is one of a Standard Industrial Classification code and a North American Industry Classification System code.

33. (previously presented) A processor-based system for promoting intellectual property according to claim 25, and further comprising:

means for sending from a customer station to a host station intellectual property data representative of an intellectual property item at least partially held by a customer at the customer station, the intellectual property data being

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included in the at least one database and comprising at least a description of the intellectual property item; and

means for displaying at least the description of the intellectual property item at the host station for view by the consumer station and the industry station, respectively.

34. (previously presented) A processor-based system for promoting intellectual property according to claim 33, wherein the host station includes an Internet site, and further wherein each of the consumer station, the industry station, and the customer station includes a processor-based work station remote from the Internet site and connectable thereto for accessing the at least one database.

35. (previously presented) A processor-based system for promoting intellectual property according to claim 34, wherein the feedback data is accessible at the Internet site by only the customer station and the industry station, respectively.

36. (original) A processor-based system for promoting intellectual property according to claim 35, wherein the at least one database further comprises at least one confidential information item for at least one of the intellectual property items.

37. (previously presented) A processor-based system for promoting intellectual property according to claim 36, wherein the system includes means operable whereby the at least one confidential information item is viewable only by the customer station at least partially holding the intellectual property item and by the industry station.

38. (original) A processor-based system for promoting intellectual property according to claim 37, and further comprising means for selectively releasing, from the customer station, the at least one confidential information item for view by the consumer station.

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39. (original) A processor-based system for promoting intellectual property according to claim 25, wherein the host station includes an Internet site, and further wherein each of the consumer and industry stations includes a processor-based work station remote from the Internet site and connectable thereto for accessing the at least one database.

40. (original) A processor-based system for promoting intellectual property according to claim 25, wherein the description of each intellectual property item includes at least one general information item viewable by at least the consumer station and at least one confidential information item viewable by the industry station.

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41. (original) A processor-based system for promoting intellectual property according to claim 40, and further comprising means for selectively releasing the at least one confidential information item at the host station for view by the consumer station.

42. (previously presented) A processor-based system for promotion of intellectual property, the system comprising:

a host station having an Internet site and at least one database accessible at the Internet site, the at least one database including:

a plurality of intellectual property items; and
a description of each intellectual property item, the description having at least one general description item and at least one confidential description item;

means for selecting one of said intellectual property items by a consumer station connected to the host station;

means for viewing the at least one general description item associated with the selected intellectual property item from the consumer station;

means for selecting said one intellectual property item by an industry station connected to the host station; and

means for viewing the at least one confidential description item from the industry station;

whereby said at least one confidential description item is unavailable for view by the consumer station.